I have read the different learning theories and have favoured the paradigms of constructivism and humanism based on my teacher style and way of life. I believe students need to be actively participating in their learning to fully appreciate the material. In addition interacting will strengthen social skills in a positive and safe environment. Most importantly it builds the students to learn independently which is a crucial attribute for success in the work force. I know from personal experiences and experience others have shared with me, if you know your student as a whole your able to build a stronger connection with that student, thus giving you the knowledge to develop the student’s growth. Also allows you to relate the curriculum material to the student interests which will promote constructivism in terms of self-learning.

Problem based learning under the constructivism theory would be a useful theory in mathematics and science curriculum based on my teaching style. It is a hands-on investigation of real world problems (example – build a ginger bread house with the required volume, area and perimeter☺). Giving open ended questions where there is no correct answer. What I mean is based on the assumptions the student makes, as some students may make different assumptions. Of course based on how they set it up it may have one answer. Let’s face it in the real world no one is going to give you all the information to solve the problem; you have to go out and get it! So why not teach these skills to the students. This critical thinking is missing in our students. But I feel this theory can’t just be introduced within a day. It may take all year to slowly develop critical thinking and creative skills as they are most likely use to constant direct instruction. But I think in the long run will benefit the students to start asking more questions and promote their curiosity rather than accepting everything right away. Math is very problem based and this critical thinking development will help improve these skills. I think it is a fun and effective learning theory to incorporate within the classroom. Very few students enjoy listening to an instructor for 50 minutes and retain the material for that matter. Students are in a way voluntold to participate in their learning. I am not fully sure if this learning theory fits in all classrooms based on maturity level and the overall rapport of the classroom, but worth a shot☺

As a mathematics and science teacher you might see why I have chosen experiential learning as a theory under the humanism learning theory. The Kolb’s Learning Cycle where first you experience a concrete experience, then observe and reflect on that experience, develop abstract concepts and finally test new situations ( i.e. do, observe, think and plan) Through investigations in mathematics based on constructivism the students will follow the Kolb’s learning cycle to benefit their learning. In active learning students will have to do, observe, think and plan, not necessarily in that order. For example if students had to measure different objects, the do is measuring, observing your peers, thinking on how to convert the measurements and finally plan which unit of measurement you should use based on what your measuring. By using experiential learning theory gives the students the skills to solve real world problems through experimental approach. This gives students the ability to improve through every experience in and outside the classroom. I am in the business to teach student’s to think for themselves, to question the standard and build a sense of responsibility with the knowledge they have acquired. I believe these learning theories will help me achieve this goal.